

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US, XE, EG
SUBJ: REMARKS OF LIBYAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 281 (B) TRIPOLI 230 (C) TRIPOLI 264

1. DURING MEETING WITH TURAYKI REPORTED REFTEL A, LIBYAN
MINISTER OF STATE FORBNOREIGN AFFAIRS MADE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, LIBYAN-US
RELATIONS AND TERRORISM.

2. TURAYKI SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN US STRATEGY FOR
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND RECENT VANCE TRIP TO REGION.
HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW PALESTINIANS MIGHT
BE REPRESENTED IN GENEVA AND WAS DOUBTFUL OF THE VIABILITY
OF A MINI PALESTINIAN STATE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS
TO HOW LIBYA WOULD REACT TO SUCH A SETTLEMENT TURAYKI
REPEATED THE REMARKS PREVIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO QADHAFI
THAT WHAT SATISFIED THE PLO HAD TO BE ACQUIESCED IN
BY THE LIBYANS. LIBYA, HE SAID, COULD NOT BE MORE
ROYAL THAN THE KING ON THIS ISSUE.

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3. CONTINUING HIS DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION,
TURAYKI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED
IN DISPUTES BETWEEN ARAB STATES. HE NOTED LIBYAN
RELATIONS WITH EGYPT CONTINUED TO BE TENSE AND CALIMED
GOVERNMENT OF SADAT WOULD NOT LAST LONG. US, HE SAID,
WAS MAKING AMISTAKE TO BASE HOPES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLE-
MENT OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM ON SUCH A SHAKY REGIME.

4. DISCUSSING LIBYA'S FOREIGN POLICY TURAYKI EMPHASIZED THAT LIBYA WAS NON-ALIGNED AND CERTAINLY NOT UNDER RUSSIAN DOMINATION. HE SAID I AS A RESIDENT OF LIBYA SURELY WAS AWARE OF THIS. LIBYA, HE SAID, WANTED BALANCED RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND PLACES SPECIAL IMPORANCE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH WEST. HE NOTED THERE WERE MANY AREAS IN WHICH LIBYA AND THE USSR FOUND THEMSELVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE DID, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS GENERALLY MORE FAVORABLE TO THE ARAB CAUSE THAN THE US.

5. OPENING HIS DISCUSSION OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS TURAYKI SAID LARG WAS HOPEFUL THAT INCIPIENT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE US AND LIBYA WOULD CONTINUE. HE FOUND THE RECENT VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN SYMMS AND HIS GROUP VERY HELPFUL IN CLEARING AWAY OLD MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH HAD GROWN OUT OF YEARS OF NON-DIALOGUE. I TOOK OCCASION TO REMIND TURAYKI THAT THERE WERE STILL BARRIERS TO IMPROVED US-LIBYAN RELATIONS THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT OF WHICH WAS LIBYAN SUPPORT OF TERRORISM. TURAYKI'S RESPONSE WAS THAT TERRORISM WAS A QUESTION OF DEFINITION AND THAT THE US NO DOUBT CONSIDERED MANY FREEDOM FIGHTERS AS TERRORISTS. I RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT, WHILE THERE WERE DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS, WHAT THE US FOUND PARTICULARLY UNACCEPTABLE WAS LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR CONSPIRACIES THT MIGHT BE AIMED AT US OFFICIALS OR US CITIZENS AND INSTALLATIONS. I
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EMNTIONED RELEASE OF JAPANESE RED ARMY TERRORISTS AND LIBYAN ACCEPTANCE OF FATAH MEMBER FAWAZ YASSIM FOLLOWING MURDERS IN KHARTOUM IN 1973. TURAYKI DENIED THAT LARG WAS INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES AND IN FACT SAID LIBYA NOW COUNSELED THE PALESTINIANS TO AVOID ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT WERE NOT AIMED DIRECTLY AT ISRAEL.

6. RETURNING TO THE US-LIBYA RELATIONS, TURAYKI SAID ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTOF INCREASED DIALOGUE MIGHT BE SITUATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. LIBYA, HE SAID, WAS CONCERNED THAT RADICAL COMMUNIST REGIMES MIGHT SUCCEED IN TAKING POWER IN OTHER STATES IN THE AREA UNLESS THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS MOVED AHEAD RAPIDLY. HE HOPED THE US WOULD BE POSITIVE IN ITS APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RECENT VISIT OF UN REP ANDREW YOUNG TO AREA SEEMED TO BE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

7. TURAYKI'S CONFIRMATION OF STAND PREVIOUS REPORT

THAT LIBYA WOULD NOT SEEK TO OBSTRUCT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PLO IS INTERESTING AT LEAST FOR THE RECORD. IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY TO OCCUR AND HENCE WILL NO DOUBT RETAIN CONNECTIONS WITH REJECTIONIST GROUPS. WHILE TURAYKI'S DENIAL OF LIBYAN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WAS TO BE EXPECTED, IT DOES INDICATE THAT LIBYA IS ON THE DEFENSIVE ON THIS ISSUE AND IS AT LEAST AWARE (AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALL ALONG) OF SPECIFIC US CONCERNS. IT DOES APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA DOES WISH TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US NOT MERELY IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING C-130S (WHICH HE DID NOT MENTION) BUT TO STRIKE A BETTER BALANCE FOR ITS "NON-ALIGNED" STATUS.

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